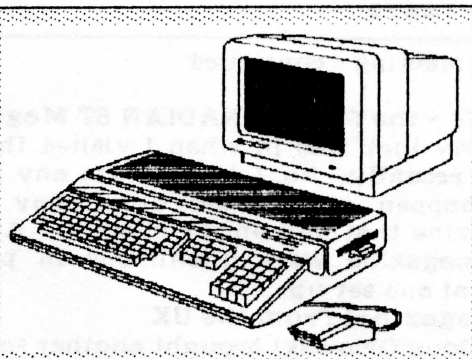
GOODTASTE



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THUNDER BAY ATARI ST ENTHUSIASTS

Volume 2 Number 5 May 1988

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345-3991 : CITINET BBS

That is the telephone number to note down if you wish to access the re-vitalised CITINET BBS. We heard about this through Mickey , President of Mikadon Computers Ltd. He provided those present with details of the BBS, his support of our user group, and several other ST-related matters. Here is a summary of what he said:

- CITINET has been taken over by MIKADON, and Gary Walsh will continue to be the SYSOP(System Operator) in charge of the overall operation of the BBS.
- the BBS will cater to all the popular home computer systems ***including the Atari ST.***
- any new user will be given 90 minutes of free on-line time.
- a charge of $3.00 per hour would apply after the free time was used up.
- users would be able to access many BBSs in North America through CITINET.
- a users manual will be available, free of cost, that will provide step-by-step instructions on using the board.
- modems can be rented at a nominal rate of $10.00 per month so that new users can become familiar with modem communication.
- new modems can be bought at a reasonable price later on. A 2400-baud modem would cost approximately $270.00.
- certain charge cards would be accepted. Users can buy time in advance; they will not be cut off if they are in the middle of a data exchange and their time has run out.
- Ed Giertuga has agreed to be the SIGOP(Special Interest Group Operator) for the Atari ST.
- Facilities will be provided to publicise TASTE. Doug Orlowski has accepted the position of Publicity Officer for our group. A notice has already been posted on the board by Doug regarding membership rates etc. Out of town members can become members for a fee of $15.00 per year.
- the local telephone number to access the BBS is: 345-3991.

- Several other items that were adressed by Mickey:
- MIKADON will provide ongoing support for ST users and members of TASTE.
- a public domain ST library will be set up.
- MIKADON will pay for advertising in TASTE. Mickey agreed with Roy Stokes that this would keep everything above board.
- a new branch which will cater mainly to the home computer user is expected to be opened in the near future.. Emphasis will be placed on making a wide choice of software available to users.
- a 'computer awareness event' is planned for parents and others in May/June. The main intent would be familiarise parents with what is available for their children in terms of computer systems and software support.

We would like to thank Mickey for first of all attending the meeting in spite of his busy schedule, and hope that MIKADON is represented at each meeting, as far as possible. Elaine Burton has done an excellent job in representing MIKADON so far.

(continued on next page)

Next Meeting

Monday, 30th May

7.00 P.M.

Aircraft Maintenance Hangar

April Meeting - continued

RESET - the first CANADIAN ST Magazine

My luck was in when I visited the Loto-649 store recently. No, I did not win any prize, but I did happen to get the only copy of RESET magazine that was on the shelves. All who saw the magazine were unanimous in praising its content and set-up.

ST Magazines from the UK

Doug Orlowski brought another set of British magazines to the meeting; he gets them directly from the UK. We are still looking for local sources for such magazines.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

Neville Denetto

Swap and Sell

It is spring cleaning time I suppose, so why not have a second look at some of your software, hardware, or anything that is computer-related. If you have no further need for it, then bring it along to the May meeting Monday, the 30th, 7.00 P.M.- PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME). Needless to say, there is one simple rule to be followed with regard to the swapping and selling of *SOFTWARE*. ie. the software must be ORIGINALS, *AND NOT COPIES*.

In order to save time, attach a price tag to whatever you bring; What can you bring to the meeting? Well, anything that is computer related - books on computing, disk holders, soldering irons, p.c.boards, power supplies, etc.

I have been phoning around trying to find out what members have for sale or swapping. All such items will be found on a list which will be made available at the door. You can still add items when you come; in this case look at the chalkboard in the meeting room for late entries.

I am sure that many of us can get rid of unnecessary accumulations of whatever, and come away with a few bargains.

....Neville

Bits and Pieces

Generally, the summer months are quiet as far as computer activity is concerned.. However, we still plan to hold our monthly meetings, if the attendance at meetings justifies it. We still have to take care of many items of business such as the PD Library, the ST portion of CITINET, a club Logo, the Constitution etc.

- While looking around for a new printer, I came across the STAR NX1000 at Earl Sutton's Blue Max Computer Systems. Ed and I tried it with several programs: Word Perfect, Word Writer, VIP Professional, Publishing Partner, Printmaster, LabelMaster, Fleet Street Publisher to name a few; the printer performed flawlessly. Club members can get the printer at the same price that Ed and I each paid: $305.00.

We highly recommend the printer. Give Earl a call at: 623-7729.

.....Neville

game review

GUNSHIP

by

Doug Stankey

Gunship, (from Microprose) is a simulation of the A-64 Apache assault helicopter in a variety of missions. The objective is to go out on various missions and increase one's score by hitting objectives of variable difficulty. Easy missions will prolong your life but the rate of point increment is low. You start in training exercises and advance to harder missions. If you do well you may collect medals along the way as well as promotions.

The targets consist of units such infantry platoons, individual tanks, armoured cars, missile launchers, anti-aircraft batteries, bunkers, airfields, and miscellaneous buildings with grounds. The view is from the cockpit and all objects can be seen in perspective once you are close enough. Buildings and roads are quite detailed and the ground vehicles are quite good and distinguishable among the various types. Unfortunately, if you are close enough to see the details of a vehicle you are likely to be shot down! Mountains and hills are well represented with shading, and fields and trees add a sense of scale and height.

The action of the game is basically very good but inevitably contains a selection of "cheats". For example, you can be fired on by units which stay invisible! Sometimes and for no apparent reason, nothing you can hit the enemy with makes the slightest difference. Some targets can't be fired on. The incidence and importance of damage is highly random. You can be abruptly destroyed for no apparent reason. The missiles can be countered to an extent with jamming, flares, and chaff but most of them hit you no matter what!

Weapons carried are: a heavy machine gun, air to air missiles, unguided rockets, and guided anti-tank missiles. These can be aimed by placing a reticle (a sort of cursor) over the target and the system guidance does the rest. The various explosions, including flak puffs, are quite detailed and relatively convincing. In the middle of your control panel is a scrolling map showing your position and the positions of KNOWN enemy units. As you encounter additional enemy units they will be added to the map. To get the big picture, you can flip to a map of the whole region with all known positional data on it.

The control of the chopper is by a combination of joystick and keyboard. There is an annoying clumsiness in the control with too much over-shoot under-shoot, and you have to watch your altitude continuously to avoid meeting Mr. Ground. The various keyboard controls are such that you must use their big keyboard overlay, which has a tendency to fall off. While using this is annoying, this is nothing compared to the fact

that if you have one disk drive you must be frequently swapping the two disks supplied and wait for loadings! In addition to this, the disks are "copy protected" in some bizarre manner that causes that disk drive to gag half of the time. (This is temporarily "cured" by re-inserting the disk and trying again.) Mercifully, there is a provision for running all but the startup files from a hard disk or a 512K RAM disk. On my machine,(a MEGA 2), I have set up an self installing auto loading RAM disk that I can boot on. After desktop appears, I put game disk "A" in the drive and click on "GUNSHIP.PRG". The program starts and checks that you are using an original disk and then therever after runs from the RAM disk. Not only does this eliminate endless disk swaps, its a heck of a lot faster! Unfortunately, for those with 512K machines, this is not possible. With two drives you can avoid the swapping but not the persistant disk calls.

The manual is typical of Micro-schmose, with very windy elaborations that add little. It contains their standard feature of code words as an anti-piracy measure (as is the keyboard overlay and the screwed-up disks). It also contains information quite at odds with the Atari version!

On the whole I recommend this game on the basis of challenge and the superior graphics. (It will be interesting to compare this against "Jet" by Sublogic.) If they would just clean up the controls and eliminate the more strange cheats this game would rate as excellent.

I rate it 7.5 out of 10.

Doug Stankey



RESET

A NEW CANADIAN *ST* MAGAZINE

This new magazine is published in Ottawa, and is written solely for the ST owner. The issue that I have (Volume 1, Number 2) consists of 64 pages of extremely useful and informative material covering a wide variety of subjects. There are three main sections: *Features, Reviews,* and *Columns*. If you are handy with a soldering iron, then go to it with *'Connecting a 5.25" Drive to the Atari ST"*. Or, you can try your hand at making null modem cables. Having trouble with installing PC-Ditto? In that case, read the step-by-step instructions provided. If you want to know what graphic tablets are available, then read Bob Thompson's *"Two Graphic Tablets for the ST"*. Reviews provided include *' Defender of the Crown'*, Word Perfect, Ultima III etc.

Here is an abridged version of the Contents page.

FEATURES

Comdex in Las Vegas
How to Draw
Plugging your ST into the World
 Introduction
 PC Ditto
 A typical PC Ditto Installation
Connecting a 5.25" Drive
Data Transfer vs Emulation
Null Modem Cables
Two Graphic Tablets for the ST

REVIEWS

Defender of the Crown
Ultima III
Word Perfect
Master Plan

COLUMNS

Editorial Ross's Ramblings
Mailbag Public Domain mini reviews
New UserSchool Bus Computing (Youth)
The Tattler(adventure gaming)
Mini Reviews (New Products)
The ST in Canada
Introduction to GEM and C
Entertainment Software
Byte the hand that feeds you

As you can see, there is a little of everything in the magazine. You would also have noticed that there are no runnable programs (utilities, or games) - and there is no disk with the magazine. This is quite understandable, because of the type of magazine that it is.

Most of the articles are written by persons connected with N.C.A.U.G of Ottawa. It is evident that there are many talented and dedicated Atarians out there.

The fine quality paper used throughout make for excellent reproduction of the many photographs that are used throughout. Colour choices are tasteful, and the artwork is excellent. As I mentioned to you earlier, all those who did look at the magazine at the meeting were unanimous in the opinion that it is a superb magazine.

RESET is published 6 times a year. Present subscription rates are :

1 year (6 issues)	$23.95 CDN
	$19.95 U.S.
2 years (12 issues)	$43.95 CDN
	$35.90 U.S.

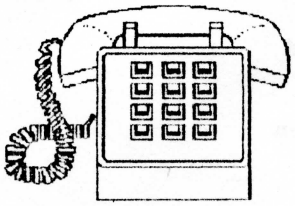
A single copy costs $4.95 Cdn.($3.95 U.S.).

The publisher is:

Khalil Publcations
9 Antares Drive
NEPEAN, Ontario
K2E 7V5 Tel: (613)723-0264

Discounted subscriptions for user groups are being considered. In the meantime, hurry out and get a copy of ***RESET***.

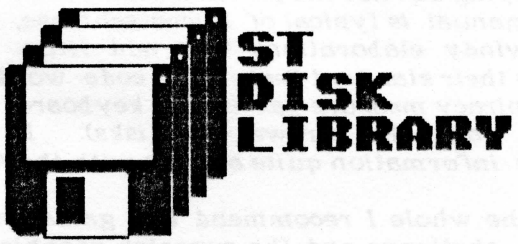
Neville Denetto



CITINET FOR THE ST!

Mikadon Computer Engineering Inc. have created through the able hands of sysop Gary Walsh, An Information service much like a mini Compuserve or Genie. The name is CITINET and they have asked me to
be the Sigop on the Atari ST sig (special interest group).
The Atari ST sig has message and upload/download sections. The message section includes both a local message base and what is called an echomail section. In the echomail section you can read messages from and write messages to ST users all over North America. Thus if you have a question that can't be answered locally or you simply would like more input then you can leave your message on the echomail base. By reading the messages contained here you'll stay on top of what's new in the ST world. Many of the messages can be quite educational, giving you tips on both hardware and software.
For those of you new to computer telecommunications the upload/download section allows you to send and receive programs.
I have already started to fill the download section with programs for the ST, as a user of CITINET you are entitled to download these public domain and share ware programs. I will continue to update this section with new programs and if you have a request for a certain program, I'll do my best to post it.
At this point the ST echomail section is very active, but the local ST section is hurting due to a lack of local ST users on this board.
I urge all local ST users to consider getting involved with telecommunications on CITINET. Thus showing there is interest in the local Atari community and that this is a sig which is worth continuing, I myself have found telecommunications one of the most enjoyable and interesting facets of using my atari computers and am sure you will find it of value also.
I've been a BBS user ever since my atari 8 bit days, when there were no local boards that supported the atari and I was forced to phone long distance. But now with CITINET you can get involved on a local level and all you need is your Atari ST, modem and a terminal program.
Besides the Atari section there are a number of other interesting things to access through CITINET such as other echomail bases many of them dealing with non computer related subjects, online magazines and other sigs.
CITINET at $3.00 an hour is a very good value, considering the programs and information you will receive and the friends you will make online.
CITINETS number is 345-3991. First time callers can log on and receive some free trial time to try out the system.
For more info you can call me at 345-1722 and when you join remember to use the local ST message base as well as the echomail section.

E. GERTUGA



DISK OF THE MONTH

Mays disk of the month features megamatic a multi function super utility, ST-Intro progam -a tutorial on the desk top, zmags with a viewing program, monoware for running mono software on a color monitor, FB a data base and more.
For more info and a demo of the disk of the month come to our meeting on May 30th, price of the disk is $4.00.

E. GERTUGA

GOOD TASTE is published by T.A.S.T.E.- The Thunder Bay Atari ST enthusiasts. Issues are mailed to all members in good standing.
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Editor- Ed Gertuga